

****Note to leaders: Use the tweets, status updates, and emails included in this document to keep parents informed of the Bible learning that their children are experiencing in the Gospel Project for Kids. Choose a method that works best for your church.****

Unit 14, Session 1: Jonah, Prophet to Nineveh

TWEETS

God called Jonah to go to his enemies and call them to turn away from their sin, but Jonah refused. Instead, he ran away. Later, God sent Jesus to His enemies to call us to repentance. Jesus willingly obeyed. Jesus died on the cross to rescue us from sin.

#thegospelprojectkids

(Christ Connection - 277 Characters)

God called Jonah to go to his enemies and call them to turn away from their sin, but Jonah refused. Instead, he ran away. #thegospelprojectkids

(Content - 143 Characters)

STATUS UPDATE

God called Jonah to go to his enemies and call them to turn away from their sin, but Jonah refused. Instead, he ran away. Later, God sent Jesus to His enemies to call us to repentance. Jesus willingly obeyed. Jesus died on the cross to rescue us from sin.

E-MAIL

Unit 14, Session 1: Jonah, Prophet to Nineveh

Dear Parents,

Jonah lived during the time Jeroboam II was king over Israel, mere decades before the Northern Kingdom of Israel was destroyed. Jonah was a prophet—and while he is best known as the man who was swallowed by a big fish when he tried to run away from God, his story continues beyond chapter 2 to reveal what Jonah knew all along: God is “a gracious and compassionate God” (John 4:2b).

Jonah’s account centers around the compassion of God, not only for the people of Israel but for people throughout the earth—even Israel’s worst enemies!

Nineveh was the capital of Assyria, and the rulers of Nineveh were notoriously evil and cruel. That was the very reason God called Jonah to go to them: “their evil has come up before me” (Jonah 1:2). God is the Judge of all the earth (Gen. 18:25), and He is sovereign over all the nations.

Jonah discovered that no one can flee from God’s presence. (Ps. 139:9-10) Through a storm and some time in the belly of a fish, God got Jonah’s attention,

and Jonah went to Nineveh. For three days, Jonah walked around the city. His message to the Ninevites was brief: “In forty days Nineveh will be demolished!” (Jonah 3:4)

The people of Nineveh immediately repented, and God withheld His judgment. “Jonah was greatly displeased and became furious” (Jonah 4:1). God rebuked Jonah. He left Jonah—and the reader—with a question to consider: “May I not care about the great city of Nineveh?” (Jonah 4:11).

Emphasize to your kids that Jesus is greater than Jonah. (Matt. 12:41) **God called Jonah to go to his enemies and call them to turn away from their sin, but Jonah refused. Instead, he ran away. Later, God sent Jesus to His enemies to call us to repentance. Jesus willingly obeyed. Jesus died on the cross to rescue us from sin.** God shows His mercy in the gospel, forgiving those who trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior. God sends us out, like Jonah, to share the good news of salvation.

Check this session’s Activity Page and Big Picture Card as well as the Gospel Project for Kids Family App for ways to interact with the Bible content this week.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

- **Babies and Toddlers**
 - Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh.
 - God showed mercy to Jonah and the Ninevites.
 - God sent Jesus to show us mercy.
 - God’s plans are good.

- **Preschool**
 - Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.
 - God loves all people.

- **Kids**
 - Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.
 - God loves all people and showed mercy to the Ninevites.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE

- **2 Peter 3:9**

NEXT WEEK

- **“Hosea, Prophet to Israel”** (Hosea)

Unit 14, Session 2: Hosea, Prophet to Israel

TWEETS

God used Hosea's unfaithful wife to show Israel they were unfaithful to Him. God gave Hosea a deep love; Hosea was willing to buy back Gomer. God's love is deep, and it never gives up. He goes after His people and paid a great price to get us back. #thegospelprojectkids
(**Christ Connection** - 270 Characters)

God used Hosea's unfaithful wife to show the people of Israel that they were unfaithful to Him. God gave Hosea a deep love; Hosea was willing to buy back Gomer even after all she had done. #thegospelprojectkids
(**Content** - 210 Characters)

STATUS UPDATE

God used Hosea's unfaithful wife to show the people of Israel that they were unfaithful to Him. God gave Hosea a deep love; Hosea was willing to buy back Gomer even after all she had done. God's love is deep, and it never gives up. He goes after His people and paid a great price to get us back.

E-MAIL

Unit 14, Session 2: Hosea, Prophet to Israel

Dear Parents,

Hosea was a prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel for at least forty years. God sent Hosea to tell Israel of God's hatred toward sin and of His coming judgment. (See Hos. 4:1,6.) God also sent Hosea to bring a message of love—a love that never gives up. (See Hos. 11:7-9.)

To get the message across to the Israelites, God used Hosea's own life to show Israel what a never-gives-up kind of love looks like. Hosea obeyed God's instructions to marry a prostitute. Hosea loved Gomer as his wife, even though he knew she would not be faithful to him. Gomer gave birth to children who were conceived with other men. Can you imagine Hosea's grief each time he realized his wife's unfaithfulness?

It would have been easier for Hosea to end his marriage covenant—to throw up his hands and say, "Enough! I'm done with you!" Yet God's people were no different than Gomer. They were spiritual adulterers. Their hearts chased after other lovers by loving and worshiping idols.

It would have been easier for God to end the Mosaic covenant—to throw up His hands and say, "Enough! I'm done with you!" But God's love never gives up. God gave Hosea a love for his wife that compelled him to buy her back from the slave market after all she had done. In the same way, God sought after His unfaithful people even after all they had done. God paid a high price—the life of His Son, Jesus—to bring them back to Himself.

Remember to talk about the story of Hosea with your kids in an age-appropriate way. **God used Hosea's unfaithful wife to show the people of Israel that they were unfaithful to Him. God gave Hosea a deep love; Hosea was willing to buy back Gomer even after all she had done. God's love is deep, and it never gives up. He goes after His people and paid a great price to get us back.** Even when God's people worship false idols, He is ready to forgive those who turn back to Him.

Check this session's Activity Page and Big Picture Card as well as the Gospel Project for Kids Family App for ways to interact with the Bible content this week.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

- **Babies and Toddlers**
 - The people of Israel stopped loving God.
 - Hosea's life showed Israel how much God loved them.
 - Jesus' life shows how much God loves us.
 - God's plans are good.
- **Preschool**
 - Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.
 - God loves people who do not love Him back.
- **Kids**
 - Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.
 - God is faithful to His people even when they do not love Him.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE

- **2 Peter 3:9**

NEXT WEEK

- **"Israel Taken Captive"** (2 Kings 17)

Unit 14, Session 3: Israel Taken Captive

TWEETS

When the Israelites disobeyed God again and again, God punished them by removing them from His presence. We disobey God, but Jesus took the punishment for our sin upon Himself. Jesus brings us into God's presence and keeps us there. #thegospelprojectkids
(**Christ Connection** - 254 Characters)

When the Israelites disobeyed God again and again, God punished them by removing them from His presence. #thegospelprojectkids
(**Content** - 126 Characters)

STATUS UPDATE

When the Israelites disobeyed God again and again, God punished them by removing them from His presence. We disobey God, but Jesus took the punishment for our sin upon Himself. Jesus brings us into God's presence and keeps us there.

E-MAIL

Unit 14, Session 3: Israel Taken Captive

Dear Parents,

God's people had a history of disobeying God. Sin separated them from God. But man was created to know and love God, and God was working out a plan to bring His children back to Himself. Like any good father, God knows that disobedience needs to be punished. "For the LORD disciplines the one he loves, just as a father disciplines the son in whom he delights" (Prov. 3:12).

After the tribes of Israel split into the Northern Kingdom and Southern Kingdom, God sent prophets to both kingdoms to warn the people to turn from their sins and obey God. Over the course of 200 years, the prophets Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, Amos, and Hosea spoke to Israel and warned them of the consequences of their idolatry. They called for Israel to repent and turn back to God. But Israel did not listen.

God had been very patient with the Israelites. He had helped them in times of trouble and delayed their punishment because He is gracious and compassionate. (See 2 Kings 13:23.) But God knew His people would not love Him with all their hearts.

Finally, God had had enough. Evil King Hoshea ruled over Israel, and God allowed Israel's enemies to send the people into exile. The king of Assyria attacked Israel and laid siege to Samaria. Assyria captured Samaria and forced the people to leave the city. The Northern Kingdom of Israel was destroyed and the people were scattered, just as God had said it would be. (See 1 Kings 14:15.)

Israel's exile was God's judgment on their sin but God was not finished working among His people. God was still working out His plan to keep His covenant promises. As you talk with your kids this week, point them to Jesus, the answer to God's promises. **When the Israelites disobeyed God again and again, God punished them by removing them from His presence. We disobey God, but Jesus took the punishment for our sin upon Himself. Jesus brings us into God's presence and keeps us there.**

Check this session's Activity Page and Big Picture Card as well as the Gospel

Project for Kids Family App for ways to interact with the Bible content this week.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

- **Babies and Toddlers**
 - The people of Israel would not obey God.
 - Assyria captured Israel.
 - When Jesus comes back, He will bring people together.
 - God's plans are good.

- **Preschool**
 - Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.
 - Israel did not listen to God's warning.

- **Kids**
 - Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.
 - Israel ignored God's prophets and was captured.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE

- **2 Peter 3:9**

NEXT WEEK

- **“Isaiah, Prophet to Judah”** (Isaiah 6,53)